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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE ADVISORY BOARD OF THE CAIRO-GABORONE TRANS-EAST AFRICAN HIGHWAY AUTHORITY

Addis Ababa, 19 November 1961

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A. ORGANIZATION AND ATTENDANCE

1. The meeting of the Advisory Board of the Cairo-Gaborone Trans-East African Highway Authority took place at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on Thursday, 19 November 1981.

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, the Sudan, Zambia, Zimbabwe (members); Burundi, Djibouti, Malawi, Rwanda, Swaziland, Uganda (associate members); and the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

The following observers also attended the meeting:

(a) Industrialized countries

France, Italy

(b) United Nations bodies

Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (TCD)

(c) Financial institutions

African Development Bank (ADB), Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA)

(d) Other international/intergovernmental organizations

Commission of the European Communities (EEC), International Road Federation (IRF)

B. OPENING OF THE MEETING

3. The meeting was officially opened by Engineer Tekezeshewa Aitenfisu, Minister of Mines, Power and Water Resources of Socialist Ethiopia, who welcomed participants on behalf of the Provisional Military Government of Socialist Ethiopia.

4. He pointed out the core of the development problem in Africa in general and the solution required in particular. He noted that African countries have recognized that transport and communications constitute a most important sector on whose development depend the growth of individual economies and the socio-economic integration of Africa as well as the promotion of intra-African trade. He reminded the participants that the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed the period 1978-1988 Transport and Communications Decade in Africa and the Lagos Plan of Action has also clearly emphasized the importance of an integrated transport in recognition of the sector.

5. He stressed the importance of the Cairo-Gaborone Trans-East African Highway Authority since the network links seven members and ten associate member countries and can speed up the social and economic progress of the area and finally attain the aims and objectives of the African Economic Community. He also emphasized the need for simplification of frontier crossings, regulations and procedures, standardization of customs formalities and uniformity of traffic regulation.

6. Speaking in connexion with the mobilization of resources, the Minister called on the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, the European Development Fund and co-operating industrialized countries to channel sufficient resources to assist the transport development effort. He also called on the meeting to deal in greater detail on the area of mobilizing resources for the implementation of the projects. He pointed out the importance of the meeting and urged participants to make appropriate recommendations to the Governing Council.

7. Finally, he expressed his appreciation to the ECA Executive Secretary for the steps he had taken in the establishment of the Trans-East African Highway Authority and also for organizing the meeting. He also thanked all the specialized agencies of the United Nations, OAU, African intergovernmental organizations and all those who have directly or indirectly assisted in the establishment of the Trans-East African Highway Authority.

8. Mr. V.E. Djomatchoua Toko, Director of the Economic Development and Co-operation Department, speaking on behalf of the Secretary General of OAU took note of the success of the meeting of experts which enabled it to make recommendations on various important subjects which were crucial to the format establishment and functioning of the Authority.

9. He drew the attention of participants to three fundamental issues which required immediate attention:

(a) the signing and/or ratification of the Constitution of the Trans-East African Highway Authority?

(b) the location of the Headquarters of the Authority;

(c) the appointment of senior officials of the Authority.

10. On the first point, he recalled article 20, "Final provisions" of the Constitution by which the Constitution would come into force after signature by four member States and ratification by two-thirds of the member States. Only four States had signed the Constitution (Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, the Sudan) and Zimbabwe would sign during the Governing Council meeting. Only two States (Egypt, Ethiopia) had ratified the Constitution and Zimbabwe was in the process of ratification.

11. He pointed out that non-adherence to that provision by member States risked calling into question the legislative basis of the current meetings, and appealed to member States of the Authority to sign the Constitution and to all members to begin the process of ratification.

12. On the second point, because of the unclear situation concerning the proposals of the Government of Kenya to host the headquarters of the Authority, and the consequences that had had on the nomination of officials and the budget estimates, he invited the Adivsory Board to consider the contents of the communications received from the Government of Kenya and to formulate a concrete recommendation on the matter.

13. He pointed out that he considered the declaration by the representative of Kenya to be encouraging.

14. With regard to the third point, he stated that to ensure the true inter-governmental character of the Authority, it was desirable to have a fair distribution of posts, without sacrificing competence and efficiency.

15. In conclusion, he affirmed that OAU was ready to make its modest contribution to the deliberations of the Board, particularly on the three issues raised, and closed by wishing the Board success in its deliberations.

16. Mr. Marc Manirakiza, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA, first expressed his thanks to the Government of Socialist Ethiopia for its contribution in organizing the meeting and to the industrialized countries whose assistance had been unfailing since the launching of the project.

17. The outlined the objectives of the meeting of the Advisory Board as follows: to give advice on all relevant activities of the Authority; advise the Director-General; review the TEAHA's work programme, administration and budget and make appropriate recommendations to the Governing Council. The meeting was expected to express its views on any problems submitted to it by the experts, thus facilitating the work of the Governing Council which followed the next day.

18. He observed that the success of the Meeting of Experts had affirmed that the programme of action and budget submitted were feasible and realistic respectively.

19. Because issues were crucial, he called for concerted support of the project on the part of the international community in general and member States in particular.

20. He stressed that the work programme implied that the Authority would possess the necessary competent technicians, appropriate equipment and offices, besides sound legal assistance in order to solve the problems of non-physical barriers, establish draft treaties and other legal instruments and engage in inter-State negotiations.

21. He pointed out that the planned inter-State committees should benefit from the assistance of international experts and financial aid and, in that regard, the role of the Project Development Committee was to assess ongoing projects and to assist in launching new projects with a view to improving all substandard sections and assisting the Highway Standards Committee in promoting uniform traffic signs and markings, traffic regulations and axle loads. The duties of the inter-State Facilitation Committee, whose role was to remove administrative and legal barriers which hindered the free movement of persons and goods and involve national subsidiary bodies. Finally, he stressed that the Research and Development Committee must play a critical role and as such needed experts, equipment and funds at its disposal to carry out its tasks.

22. In conclusion, he appealed to the international community to give substantial support to the Trans-East African Highway programme, without which there could be no economic and trade interdependence.

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Election of officers (agenda item 2)

23. On the basis of nominations proposed by the representative of Zimbabwe, the meeting unanimously approved the following officials: Ethiopia-Chairman, France-Vice-Chairman and African Development Bank-Rapporteur.

Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 3)

24. The following provisional agenda of the meeting prepared by ECA was adopted without amendment:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
4. Review of the Plan of Action of the Trans-East African Highway
5. Other matters
6. Date and place of the next meeting
7. Adoption of the report

Review of the Plan of Action of the Trans-East African Highway Authority (agenda item 4)

25. The Advisory Board accepted the Plan of Action of the TEAH as presented in the Report of the meeting of experts without comment.

26. During consideration of the report the representative of Djibouti suggested that each country shall send their road design standards and specifications to the Authority once it becomes operational.

27. The secretariat pointed out that this was the time for developed countries and international agencies to express their experience and advice so that it would be passed on to the Governing Council by the Board.

28. In response to a question by the representative of Uganda the rapporteur of the experts meeting indicated that the TEAHA budget was adopted on the basis that member countries would contribute 80 per cent and associate members 20 per cent; the Headquarters Agreement was adopted without the mention of any country's name; and a special subcommittee of the experts had examined and selected qualified candidates for recommendation to the Governing Council on the basis of their qualifications, experience and with some geographical representation considerations.

29. The representative of Zimbabwe observed that the critical factor in the establishment of the Authority was the signing and ratification of the constitution and urged participants to take this first important step. He pointed out that

unless other countries sign and ratify the constitution, those countries that have signed would be reluctant to make contributions knowing that the burden of running the Authority would fall on them only. He urged other countries to sign and ratify the Constitution as his country would do next day.

30. The representative of Zambia also indicated that his country would sign the Constitution.

31. The Chairman emphasized the views of Zimbabwe, the crucial issue being signing of the Constitution which indeed indicated whether the Authority would commence as stipulated.

Other matters (agenda item 5)

32. In discussing means of mobilization of funds for the TEAHA, the representative of OAU suggested that a consultative technical meeting on the basis of the Decade ones be organized and convened in 1983; provided that the Authority was operational in 1982. He observed that this was a proven way of obtaining bilateral/multilateral funds.

33. The representative of Zimbabwe confirmed the usefulness of consultative technical meetings, given good organization and preparations and suggested that assistance could be sought from international organizations for the preparation of the documents in a form generally acceptable by donor countries.

34. The representative of DTCD briefly explained the activities of his Department in the United Nations and offered to assist the TEAHA with inter-regional advisers in matters of interest to TEAHA and indicated that his Department had experience and expertise in project identification and preparation, and worked closely with the regional commissions. He suggested that such request from TEAHA could be sent through ECA.

35. The participants agreed that a schedule of action should be established and proposed to the Governing Council as it seemed inappropriate to leave things to luck. In support of the above the representative of OAU suggested that the two important committees; Research and Development and Standardization, should be constituted by July 1982 when the Director-General is supposed to take office and with ECA, the bodies should commence work if the consultative technical meeting is to take place in February 1983.

36. The Zimbabwe and OAU recommendations were adopted by the meeting.

Date and place of next meeting (agenda item 6)

37. After debate and clarification by ECA, it was agreed that since the three meetings-Experts, Advisory Board and Governing Council-take place together, it was up to the Governing Council to decide the date and place of the next meeting.

Adoption of the report (agenda item 7)

38. The Advisory Board adopted its report.